

"Many quaint houses remain, including the wooden structures whose inflammability gave rise to curious fire regulations. Wood for building could not lie in the streets more than 24 hours. No smithy could work between vespers and early morn. Every citizen was a potential fire fighter and the citizens' brigades, when called to a fire had to await word from the mayor for dismissal. Women were required to aid at night by holding lights in the doorways. Until two centuries ago the city fathers were assigned special duties in fire fighting."